

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /095 W

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P R 081140Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6691

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XA, SF, NI

SUBJECT: FMG REAFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS

1. NIGERIA'S HEAD OF STATE LT. GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO HAS SENT MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO ALL FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THROUGH TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE.

2. MESSAGE CONTAINS PLEDGE OF NIGERIA'S UNRESERVED SUPPORT FOR THE INITIATIVES OF THE AFRICAN LEADERS AT THE JUST CONCLUDED DAR MEETING "IN THEIR SEARCH FOR AN HONORABLE AND JUST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA." OBASANJO

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GAVE ASSURANCES TO ALL THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA THAT

THEY COULD COUNT ON NIGERIA'S ACTIVE CO-OPERATION IN FULFILLING ITS COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AND FREEDOM IN THE WHOLE OF THE REGION. HEAD OF STATE SAID "I REMAIN CONVINCED IN MY BELIEF THAT YOUR SELFLESS EFFORTS WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD NOT ONLY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL THE RACES OF THIS CONTINENT BUT ALSO THE RESTORATION OF THE DIGNITY OF MAN SO OFTEN DENIED TO THE AFRICAN POPULATION."

3. MESSAGE IS MODERATE IN TONE AS WERE REMARKS OBASANJO MADE TO VISITING UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA, SEAN MACBRIDE. THE HEAD OF STATE TOLD MACBRIDE THAT WHILE NIGERIA REMAINED TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN THE "RACIST-HELD TERRITORIES" IT STILL BELIEVED THAT DIFFERENT RACIAL GROUPS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA COULD LIVE HAPPILY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT RACIAL TROUBLE WOULD NEVER SUBSIDE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA UNLESS "INTIMIDATIONS GAVE WAY TO THE SPIRIT OF GIVE-AND-TAKE AND THE MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIPS REMOVED." OBASANJO CONDEMNED "MURDER OF AFRICANS" BY SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES AND COMMENTED THAT THE ACTION WOULD NOT RESULT IN RACIAL HARMONY. LASTING PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE TOLD MACBRIDE, DEPENDED ON "AN AGREEMENT" AMONG THE VARIOUS RACIAL GROUPS. THE NIGERIAN LEADER ALSO REAFFIRMED FMG CONTENTION THAT SWAPO IS THE AUTHENTIC AND LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE AND THAT NO SOLUTION TO NAMIBIAN PROBLEM COULD EXCLUDE SWAPO LEADERS. OBASANJO PROMISED MACBRIDE THAT NIGERIA "WITHIN ITS LIMITED RESOURCES" WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS.

4. COMMENT: OBASANJO'S MESSAGE TO FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS PROVIDES YET ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF FMG'S DETERMINATION TO TAKE PART IN UNFOLDING DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. MODERATE TONE OF OBASANJO'S MESSAGE AND HIS REMARKS TO MACBRIDE MAY REFLECT A DEGREE OF NIGERIAN OPTIMISM THAT U.S. INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA MAY RESULT IN SOME CONCRETE GAINS FOR AFRICAN POPULATIONS. WE WOULD CAUTION HOWEVER THAT IF THIS CAUTIONS OPTIMISM IS DASHED BY OUTCOME CURRENT TALKS OR SOUTH AFRICAN INTRANSIGENCE, NIGERIAN REACTION WILL LIKELY REVERT TO ITS EARLIER SHRILL CONDEMNATION OF EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT.

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